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Gold drops \$16
LONDON, June 25 (AP) — The dollar surged on world foreign exchanges Thursday, particularly in late afternoon trading in Europe, while gold prices slumped sharply.
Gold finished in London at an 18-month low of \$444.50 a troy ounce, down \$16 from Wednesday's late \$460.50 and its lowest rate since Dec. 10, 1979.

Ceasefire in Zahle
Ministers conclude talks, leave Jeddah
JEDDAH, June 25 (SPA) — Three Arab foreign ministers have left here after discussions on restoring peace in Lebanon. The ministers, Abdul Halim Khaddam of Syria, Sheikh Sabbah Al-Ahmad of Kuwait, Faud Butros of Lebanon, along with Prince Saud Al Faisal of Saudi Arabia, form the Arab Follow-up Committee established in at the end of the 1975-76 civil war and subsequently shelved and revived several times.
They were seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Sheikh Abdul Rahman Mansouri, the foreign undersecretary for political affairs, Sheikh Salem Sumbal, the head of the foreign ministry's protocol department, and the Kuwaiti and Syrian ambassadors to Saudi Arabia.



FRENCH CABINET: President Francois Mitterrand (second from left) posing with members of his new cabinet at Elysee Palace Wednesday. On first row from left are Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, President Mitterrand, Interior Minister Gaston Defferre, Communist Transportation Minister Charles Fiterman and State Minister for Research and Technology Jean-Pierre Chevènement.

Communists' inclusion
French move sparks row with U.S.
PARIS, June 25 (AFP) — Less than 48 hours after the appointment of four Communists to the new French cabinet, a bitter row has erupted over the move between Paris and Washington.

Reagan intends to sell planes
WASHINGTON, June 25 (Agencies) — The Reagan administration says it intends to go ahead with the sale of sophisticated early-warning planes and equipment to Saudi Arabia in spite of opposition in Congress.
A majority of members of both the Senate and the House of Representatives Wednesday declared they opposed the deal. A vote on the same lines when the arms package comes before Congress, probably in late summer, would kill the proposed legislation. Administration officials said they were optimistic the sale would go through. "We are confident that once the full package is presented to Congress, they will share the president's view that this effort is in the best interests of the entire Middle East region," the officials said.

For 'condemning' Israel
Reagan greets Kirkpatrick
LOS ANGELES, California, June 25 (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan telephoned his congratulations to United Nations Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick on Wednesday for her work in developing a Security Council resolution condemning Israel or bombing Iraq's nuclear reactor, the White House said.

Officials said Haig had to intervene personally from Peking and Manila to insure that any resolution to be adopted that was not overly injurious to Israel, the newspaper reported.
The aides were quoted as saying Haig even telephoned Iraq's foreign minister in New York from Manila to obtain language that Kirkpatrick said was impossible to achieve.
A very senior State Department official told reporters Tuesday that Haig, on his trip through Pacific nations, did consult with the Iraqi foreign minister in New York by telephone on the wording of the resolution. It was known that Haig was not the official who was the source of Kirkpatrick.

Paris, June 25 (AFP) — Less than 48 hours after the appointment of four Communists to the new French cabinet, a bitter row has erupted over the move between Paris and Washington.
The diplomatic fireworks broke out in full force after the U.S. State Department declared Wednesday night that the inclusion of Communists in the Socialist-dominated government here would affect the "tone and content" of Washington-Paris relations.
French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson countered Thursday that the U.S. statement was based on a "miscalculation" that ignored the realities of French politics and was little more than tough anti-Communist rhetoric designed for domestic American consumption.

London, June 25 (AP) — The dollar advanced to 2.043 Swiss francs against 2.0245 Wednesday. The franc and mark, which have been under pressure recently, were slightly easier. The franc closed at 0.575 Swiss francs against 0.5580, and the mark at 0.8545 against 0.856.
Sterling continued weaker closing at 3.9912 against 4.02, the first time it has fallen below four Swiss francs since October 1980.

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U.S. rights policy defended
NEW YORK, June 25 (AP) — Opponents of the Ronald Reagan human rights policy exploited a Jewish newspaper publisher's outcry by the Argentine government, a presidential nominee rejected for the State Department human rights post charged.
Ernest Lefever, whose nomination was rejected by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said that Jewish publisher south Timmerman was used by those who are rejecting a caricature of the Reagan human rights policy.

Irish bulls overworked
DUBLIN, June 25 (AFP) — A strike by workers in Ireland's artificial insemination services has forced bulls and cows to reproduce the old-fashioned way — and bulls are dying from overwork.
With two bulls already dead, worried breeders here are shaking their heads and confessing that their animals are just not up to form when it comes to the rigors of traditional copulation without modern conveniences.
They have literally bucked at the knees and fallen down on the job, moaned one Irish farmer. "Two animals have died in the last few days, apparently from overwork."

Begin rejects Carrington as mediator
LONDON, June 25 (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin served notice in a BBC television interview Wednesday night that he would reject British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington as an intermediary if he tried to bring the Palestine Liberation Organization into the Mideastern negotiations.
Commenting on the fact that Lord Carrington will become chairman of the 10-nation Common Market's Council of Ministers on July 1, Begin said: "I do not expect anything good from that..."
The prime minister added that the foreign secretary and his spokesman in the House of Commons, Lord Privy Seal Sir Ian Gilmour, "are no friends of Israel."

Agreement reached on Sinai force
CAIRO, June 25 (R) — Egypt, Israel and the United States Thursday said they had reached preliminary agreement on the formation of a multi-national force to police the Egyptian-Israeli border after Israeli forces withdrew from the Sinai peninsula next April.
A U.S. Embassy spokesman said documents drafted by delegates in two days of talks here would be submitted to the respective governments for approval.
Under the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty signed in Washington, in 1979, Israel must evacuate Sinai by April next year on condition a United Nations or multi-national force with U.S. participation moves into the peninsula to police the border.
The force would range from 2,000 to 2,500 men armed with light weapons. A number of countries invited to join the force have declined on the grounds it was unlikely to receive U.N. backing because of Soviet opposition to the U.S.-sponsored peace process.

Bani-Sadr assistants arrive in Cairo
CAIRO, June 25 — Knowledgeable Egyptian sources Thursday told Arab News that 15 top aides of ex-President Bani-Sadr of Iran arrived in Cairo Wednesday evening. The sources said the Cairo whereabouts of the aides is being kept under the strictest secrecy by the Egyptian authorities.
Sheffield wants Charles pay £60,000
SHEFFIELD, England, June 25 (AP) — The Socialist-controlled city Council of Sheffield has agreed to give its employees the day off for Prince Charles' July 28 wedding to Lady Diana Spencer — but wants the heir to the throne to pay the 60,000-pound (\$118,800) cost of their day's pay.
David Blunkett, leader of the Labor-dominated council, said Wednesday that Charles could easily afford to do so by dipping into the revenue he earns from the duchy of Cornwall.
Charles is duke of Cornwall, a 644-year-old title that traditionally provides the heir to the throne with an independent income from 130,000 acres of land in nine counties.

Habib leaves Beirut for Washington
BEIRUT, June 25 (R) — United States special envoy Philip Habib left here Thursday at the end of his second tour of the Middle East aimed at averting a Syrian-Israeli clash over Lebanon, airport sources said.
Habib is duke of Cornwall, a 644-year-old title that traditionally provides the heir to the throne with an independent income from 130,000 acres of land in nine counties.
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Evren seen as Turkey's savior May run for president

ANKARA, June 25 (AP) — With all political activity banned in Turkey, the leader of the military coup has a clear field in what appears to be his bid to become the elected president once democracy is restored.

Gen. Kenan Evren, a retiring and soft-spoken man who was said to have been reluctant to lead the Sept. 12 military takeover, is acting more and more like an outright politician. He travels widely in Turkey and makes speeches at every stop. He bars on the menace that threatened Turkey before he intervened and without ever accusing the Soviet Union, he leaves no doubt it was a red menace.

Evren, 63, has told Western reporters in interviews recently that he will do what the country asks of him once he returns power to the politicians. He has never denied that he would like to be the elected president. The majority of Turks appear to regard Evren as a true savior. Diplomats and seasoned Turkish observers estimate he would win 80 percent of the vote against any possible opponent.

Evren appointed himself president after the coup, adding the title to his imposing position as chief of staff of the armed forces. He appears to like the job and as he tours the nation, he smiles broadly and works the peasant crowds like a seasoned politician.

Evren's chief stumbling blocks will arise in the coming months when the honeymoon period begins to cool. He still has strong, if quiet, opposition from the leaders of the parties he banned nearly nine months ago. Deposed Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel, a conservative, has been quietly meeting with old political colleagues and pulling strings. To the distress of the military rulers, he still controls the loyalty of many working civil servants.

The same goes for former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit, a Social Democrat who has written magazine articles critical of the new regime. The backstage politicking by

those former leaders led to a stern decree which bans all public comment or private gatherings of a political nature. The magazine that carries Ecevit's column delayed its printing while it tried to fill the hole left by the abrupt cancellation of the Ecevit piece.

A visiting delegation of European parliamentarians was said to have been shocked by the severity of the communiqué and the Europeans could be another stumbling block for Evren's political future. Evren and his appointed figurehead government has politely received delegation after delegation of Europeans who come to assess whether a military regime should be allowed to remain a member of the democratic, European Club.

Evren's popularity at home could drop sharply if the Council of Europe decides Turkey should be expelled and this

NATO-member nation's important economic ties to the European Economic Community are frozen or severed. Turkey's economy, which is showing signs of recovery, depends heavily on European commerce.

Evren's stock is much higher with the Americans, who seem only to care that Turkey remain a strong bastion of the NATO alliance. On his tours of Turkey, Evren has frequently declared that he will not be forced into ending military rule until he feels the time is right.

Sources said he tells the Europeans the new Turkish parliament will be elected in 1983. Evren has promised to establish a constituent assembly to write a new constitution by late summer, but the Europeans are eagerly waiting to see how the assembly will be formed and who will be in it.

They fear that Evren and his ruling five-general National Security Council will pick the members. Evren has already said the NSC would act as a senate with



veto power over the assembly. Informed speculation in Ankara holds that the assembly will be instructed to draft a French-style constitution that would give the elected president wide powers unprecedented in Turkish civilian regimes.



CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS: Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, the new chairman of the Organization of African Unity, addressing the opening session of the four-day OAU summit.

SWAPO promised continued aid OAU blasts U.S. links with S. Africa

NAIROBI, June 25 (Agencies) — African leaders Thursday began tackling deeply divisive continental issues after a show of solidarity at their annual summit meeting over the issue of independence for Namibia South-West Africa.

Kenya President Daniel Arap Moi, who took over chairmanship of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Wednesday night, pledged Africa's continued support for the armed struggle by fighters of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). He would be maintained "so long as the latest South African regime continues to defy international opinions and clings to the illegal occupation of Namibia," he declared.

Earlier, SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma accused the U.S. administration of forging an unholy alliance with South Africa and of botching prospects for a settlement of the smoldering conflict. President Moi also said there was a danger that the five Western nations seeking a settlement over Namibia as "losing time through initiatives outside a framework of the United Nations." They are the U.S., Canada, Britain, France, and West Germany.

Libyan envoys put under house arrest

KAMPALA, June 25 (R) — An undisclosed number of Libyan diplomats in Kampala were placed under house arrest Wednesday by Ugandan police who gave no reason for their detention.

Libyan Charge d'Affaires Ali Salem told Reuters that armed police came to his hotel in the Ugandan capital and informed him that he was under arrest. He said the police told him that he and administrative attaché Ali Zizdalmanan, also living in the hotel, were forbidden to leave the building and would be guarded round the clock.

Salem said a number of other Libyan diplomats in Kampala were also under house arrest. Asked why he was being detained, he replied: "I don't know." A police officer who was asked the same question said: "They just want us over there. That's Uganda."

Morocco stiffens stand on Sahara

NAIROBI, June 25 (Agencies) — King Hassan of Morocco arrived here Thursday as African leaders prepared to debate the five-year-long war in the part of the Western Sahara under Moroccan control.

The king was welcomed by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi on his arrival with some 100 Moroccan delegates. King Hassan is not attending Organization of African Unity (OAU) meetings for years and has in the past used strong language to decry the organization, threatening on at least two occasions to leave it, informed sources said.

In a broadcast Wednesday, King Hassan said there was no question of Morocco enouncing a grain of sand in Western Sahara although he had new proposals for a solution which could end the conflict over the former Spanish colony.

"Now that the royal armed forces have won a victory and we have the necessary military mastery, we think it preferable and proper to go to Nairobi to explain to African

Sudan's strike leaders seek pardon

KHARTOUM, June 25 (AP) — The government-appointed preparatory committee of the railway, river transport, hotels and catering workers union petition Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri for a pardon for the leaders of the now-disbanded trade union, the Sudanese News Agency said Wednesday.

Musa Mitay, the chairman of the committee, said it would await Numeiri's return from the 18th African summit in Nairobi to submit

Russia said sending more arms to Kabul

NEW DELHI, June 25 (Agencies) — The Soviet Union probably will send more advanced weapons instead of more troops to its war against the tenacious Muslim fighters in Afghanistan, a Western military expert predicts. But the anti-Communist fighters who control most of the rugged Afghan countryside also are receiving modern weapons and training, the expert said, and the Soviets "will have to do a lot of thinking."

The military observer spoke to reporters Wednesday on the condition that he not be identified by name or nationality. He asserted that Soviet troops are using toxic chemicals that are "non-persistent, lethal, mainly nerve gas. They are probably testing some new stuff, too, but the main use is of conventional stuff." "They use it indiscriminately to clear an area," dropping gas bombs before a troop column passes through. "It makes things a lot easier."

The source said his information confirmed a diplomatic report in March that 5,000 to 15,000 more Soviet troops had been sent to Afghanistan, a report the U.S. State Department said was not true.

Islamic seminar urges U.S. policy change on Israel

TOKYO, June 25 (SPA) — A three-day International Islamic Seminar that wound up here Wednesday urged the United States to reconsider its policy of supporting Israel. It denounced Israel and "the forces that back it."

The seminar called for cooperation among countries and the protection of world peace. It affirmed its support to the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights. Moreover, the seminar asked the Soviet Union to recognize the right of the Afghan people to determine their own future. It endorsed the resolution on Afghanistan adopted by the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations.

In its final declaration purporting by the International Islamic Newsagency (IINA), the seminar called on the Philippines government to abide by the Tripoli Accord. It also invited the Ethiopian government to recognize the legitimate rights of self-determination of the Eritrean people. The seminar appealed to Iran and Iraq to respond favorably to efforts that are being made to solve their feud by peaceful means. It also hailed the Makkah Declaration issued by the Third Islamic Summit in Makkah/Taif last January. It also saluted the Gulf Cooperation Council. The next seminar will be held in Sri Lanka next year.

Begin, Peres set for TV debate

TEL AVIV, June 25 (AP) — Prime Minister Menachem Begin and opposition leader Shimon Peres meet Thursday in a television debate that could clinch the close Israeli election next Tuesday.

The ground rules promised the opposite of traditional free-wheeling Israeli political combat. Heckling, shouting and filibustering were banned. Each candidate was given 2 1/2 minutes to answer each question, anyone speaking longer would have his microphone cut off after five seconds and the camera would shift to the other man.

Military commentator Zeev Schiff was the moderator, posing the same question to each candidate on seven issues: Begin's four years in office, the style of the election campaign, the economy, the state of Israeli society, security, foreign policy and Israel's future in general.

Jordan nominated to U.N. Council

UNITED NATIONS, June 25 (R) — Jordan has been nominated by the Asian group of states for a two-year term on the Security Council beginning next January, Asian diplomats have said. Jordan, which previously served on the council in 1965-66, will fill a seat held by the Philippines.

The 10 non-permanent seats on the 15-nation council are assigned to specific regional groups. Their nominees are virtually assured of election to the council when the General Assembly votes at its session beginning in September. It is also the turn of an Asian this year to become president of the assembly, with candidates from Bangladesh, Iraq, Singapore and Syria seeking the post.

Reward offered to trace Bani-Sadr

TEHRAN, June 25 (Agencies) — The portrait of Abolhassan Bani-Sadr which once occupied the pride of place beside that of Ayatollah Khomeini in homes and offices throughout Iran is nowhere to be found.

But a crudely-drawn picture of Bani-Sadr pasted to the wall of the justice ministry in Tehran proclaims the fugitive ex-president to be a wanted man. "A reward is offered to the person informing the revolutionary guards of this man's whereabouts," the poster says. "Reward: a place in heaven."

Two weeks ago, Bani-Sadr returned to Tehran from one of his many tours of the war front with Iraq, after Ayatollah Khomeini sacked him as commander-in-chief of the armed forces. He has not been seen since and is now a hunted man. Dismissed as president by the Ayatollah Monday after impeachment by parliament, Bani-Sadr is on his way to becoming a non-person in Iran.

The revolutionary prosecutor Hassan Lajevardi said Thursday Bani-Sadr is still in Iran, but has not yet been arrested. Lajevardi gave no details of his reasons for believing Bani-Sadr had not fled Iran.

Since Saturday, some 30 persons accused of involvement in the recent clashes between supporters and adversaries of Bani-Sadr have been shot. Reports that Bani-Sadr might be hiding in the mountainous western province of Kermanshah were discounted by the official Tehran Times published Thursday. The official, a Hojatoleslam cleric, told the newspaper it was unlikely that Bani-Sadr was in Kermanshah, where he had "always been highly unpopular."

In a related event, a legal adviser to Bani-Sadr has been arrested at Tehran's Mehrabad

Reward offered to trace Bani-Sadr

airport while trying to flee the country, a revolutionary guards spokesman said Thursday.

Kayhan newspaper identified the aide as Houshang Manouchebri and said he was detained Wednesday morning as he was about to leave for Frankfurt. A large quantity of money and bank documents was found on him, Kayhan said. Airport sources said he was one of several Bani-Sadr aides arrested at Mehrabad Wednesday but the sources declined to reveal their names for security reasons.

Twenty-five friends and advisers of Bani-Sadr, target of a nationwide hunt, have been arrested but not yet charged. The ex-president's most prominent aides have been out of contact for over a week and many are believed to be in hiding.

Tehran radio said Thursday six persons were killed and many injured in anti-government riots in the Kurdish-populated city of Mahabad in northwestern Iran. The city's governor was shot in the leg, according to the broadcast.

The state radio blamed the riots on the outlawed Kurdistan Democratic Party which has long been fighting for Kurdish autonomy. The radio said gunmen from the KDP attacked a funeral procession in Mahabad Wednesday, killing six mourners on the spot and wounding many others, including the governor and six Islamic revolutionary guards. The governor and the six guards were reported in "satisfactory condition in hospital" Thursday. Although the broadcast reported "many" injured, it gave no further details of who else was hurt.

Another Tehran radio report said a man

was executed by firing squad in the southernmost city of Bandar Abbas on the Straits of Hormuz Thursday for participating in anti-government riots to protest Bani-Sadr's dismissal Monday. The city's Islamic Revolutionary Court found the man guilty of "taking part in demonstrations against Islam and the Islamic Republic, carrying incendiary bombs and hurling incendiary bottles at the people."

Meanwhile, a Teheran newspaper claimed Thursday Bani-Sadr had concluded a secret deal with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to release the American hostages without prior approval of Ayatollah Khomeini the parliament or government.

The newspaper Sobh-e Azadegan (Dawn of freedom-lovers) said Bani-Sadr, however, failed to get the hostages released under the alleged deal and that is why he allegedly attempted to block the final accord under which the captives were freed during President Ronald Reagan's inauguration.

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Exhibitions in Denmark portray 'Saudi Arabia on the move'



DURING EXHIBITION: Part of the cultural background of Saudi Arabia is demonstrated in Copenhagen, Denmark by Hussein Shehadeh as he plays the traditional Arab Oud.

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, — Saudi Arabia was portrayed as a country "on the move," during recent photo exhibitions and presentations by Hussein Shehadeh. Three exhibitions were presented, all with Arab names, which portrayed the Kingdom's commitment and planning continuity.

In a lecture titled, "Saudi Arabia, Faith, Fortune and Far-Seeing," Shehadeh told how the Kingdom's religion and government are interwoven. The Quran was shown as the official constitution and Ullama (religious leaders) consultants about vital issues.

"Saudi society is endeavoring to combine between two objectives, the preservation of Islamic religious and moral values and the maintenance of a rapid economic growth," Shehadeh explained. "Modernization has given birth to a growing class of young, wealthy and highly educated urban dwellers."

"More than 1.4 million Saudi Arabians are now studying at schools and colleges, while modernization has brought great improvements in living conditions, nutrition and health care."

Shehadeh described the spectacular series of development projects, whether they involve the construction of new cities, or creating modern and massive ports. He said they are planned and executed pragmatically by taking cultural, social, economic and environmental factors into consideration.

Saudi Arabian photographs and the description were presented at the Central Library, Odense; the Gallery Falsted, Art Gallery, Copenhagen; and the Main Public Library, Copenhagen.

The first exhibition, "Pictures, People in Progress," included photographic impressions and stressed the cultural, spiritual and

traditional aspects of the Kingdom. A second presentation told how Saudi Arabian authorities made efforts to control and absorb rapid growth and modernization without in any way threatening the traditional moral framework of the country. The third appearance talked about the "anticipated" consequence of the careful combination of the two, Shehadeh called this last presentation, "Old Ideals, New Aims."

Hussein Shehadeh, has a Ph.D. in Film Research, Journalism and Photography, he first visited Saudi Arabia in 1974 when he co-produced a television documentary titled, "The Reasonable Utilization of Oil Revenues." The film was shown on television in both Denmark and Sweden.

In September, 1980, Shehadeh conducted an exhibition at the Denmark National Museum, Department of Ethnography named "Saudi Arabia: Islam, Oil and Wel-



MECHANICAL AGRICULTURE: Cultural contrasts are demonstrated in this photo which shows farmers with the latest equipment.

fare." "The world of images proved penetrating and persuasive, we are living in the age of images," Shehadeh said. "I am not a professional photographer, professional journalist or a professional film scientist in the traditional sense. I merely observe and register. What I record does not have to be the absolute truth, but it is inevitably my version of the truth, at a given moment," he said.

Shehadeh has not restricted his activities to photo exhibitions, he contributes regularly to Danish newspapers and periodicals. He recently published a series of articles "Faith, Tradition, and Time-Machines," which gave Saudi Arabia as their example. He has given a number of lectures on the development of Saudi Arabia, which were illustrated with documentary films and color slides.

"Discussions following these lectures," Shehadeh remarks, "reflected the prefabricated concepts people have of Islamic culture."

"The legend still exists in which we are not just oil producers and desert dwellers. Our deep-rooted tradition and plentiful human resources and ingredients should guarantee us a dignified and decent place under the sun."

In delivering these lectures and participating in discussions Shehadeh emphasizes culture to people in the West in general and Scandinavians in particular. He says they are anxious to learn about the civilian and human side of Saudi daily life.

"These people are exhausted, if not overfed; and may be depressed with the invariable television news material dished out to them at a time which corresponds to their evening meals," Shehadeh explains. "They bear about military conquests, wars and violence and would simply rather know what we talk about to each other."

Two exhibitions were conducted in public and central libraries because of their location. The Central Library in Odense, a prominent cultural center in Denmark and the birthplace of the famous author of fairy tales Hans Christian Andersen, the library is adjacent to the University of Odense. Shehadeh said this meant that regular attendance of future university graduates, scholars and researchers is guaranteed.

At the Public Library in the capital, Copenhagen, the location guaranteed an attendance of more than 3,000 people who could be stimulated to cultivate their interest in the subject matter on a more serious level.

To encourage such interest, Shehadeh made a list of books and publications about Saudi Arabia available at the libraries. His list included books about both the Kingdom and Islam and accompanied it with relevant commentary and recommendations.



SOUTH-WEST ASIR: Few realize that this green, hilly terrain exists in southern Saudi Arabia. This photo and the others shown here were taken by Hussein Shehadeh and exhibited in Copenhagen.



TRADITIONAL LIFE: This photo shows the accepted concept of the Arab pouring tea using conventional pottery and with canvas background.

Innocent-looking, six-sided 'Rubik's Cube' is educational, challenging

By Robert Fraga
Al Khobar Bureau

AL KHOBAR — What is green, yellow, orange, red, white, and blue; can be purchased in a local supermarket; and is said to be capable of more than 3 billion alterations? One answer to what has been couched in the style of a child's riddle might be: I don't know, but I just bought one at Al Sawmi's for the kids to play with.

A less juvenile response would be 'Rubik's Cube'. This deceptively innocent-looking, six-sided mechanism was invented by a Hungarian teacher of architecture and design, Erno Rubik, as an instructional aid for his students. Since its debut in 1975, it has taken the world of commerce by storm, to the delight and consternation of adolescents and academicians alike.

The device, in question is a cube, each of whose faces can be rotated, clockwise or counterclockwise, about an axle attached to

the center of the face. This can be accomplished for one face independent from the other five. Each face is subdivided into a three-by-three array of squares which form the "facets" of the cube's constituent blocks called "cubies" by those addicted to the art and science of cubology. People so afflicted, incidentally, are called "cubists" in the jargon which has sprung up around the exercise like crab grass in Harvard Yard. Since each face is colored differently from the other five, a 90, 180, or 270 degree turn of one face alters the monochromaticity of the four adjacent faces. Thus a sequence of a few random twists can radically alter the original appearance of the cube.

What began as a teacher's attempt to sharpen his students' ability to visualize three-dimensional objects is available, as a puzzle or toy, in many countries including, now, Saudi Arabia. Yet despite its obvious potential to amuse and to sop up free time, Rubik's

cube is far more than a plaything. It is mechanically an ingenious instrument which defies casual analysis. How is it possible, for example, for each face to move independently of the others? Doesn't this imply that each of the eight corner cubies, which can be rotated in three mutually perpendicular directions, cannot be attached to any of the neighbors? But if this is so, shouldn't the corner cubies all fall off as soon as the cube is touched?

These questions stump most would-be inventors, who answer them, more often than not, by brute force, prying apart the cube to expose the six-fold spindle in its center and the system of "feet", nicks, and tracks which hold the various cubies to each other and prevent the cube from literally falling to pieces.

Apart from the fundamental problem of construction, there are aesthetic and puzzle-like aspects to the cube which attract the

interest of its more serious devotees. The principal chore is to unscramble the cube once it has been messed up: How does one restore it to the start position — in which each face is one colored — from an arbitrary rearrangement of its cubies?

This problem is clearly a difficult one. A little arithmetic shows that there are well over the three billion combinations advertised by one manufacturer which can be achieved by turning the various faces of the cube — 43,252,003,274,489,856,000 to be precise. Yet, regardless how mixed up the cube is, one London-based mathematician, Morwan B. Thistlewaite, has proven that it can be restored to start in at most 52 turns. Sophisticated mathematical arguments have reduced this figure to 22 or 23.

One branch of mathematics in particular, group theory, is especially helpful in formulating cube strategy. Algorithms to restore a mixed-up cube to the pristine quality of the

start state or to transform start to some kind of pretty pattern are developed "partly by intuition, partly by luck, sometimes with the aid of diagrams and occasionally with abstract principles of group theory", to quote from one article on the subject which recently appeared in *Scientific American*. The same article cites physicist physics, from whose vocabulary the word "quark" has been borrowed to describe a clockwise one-third twist.

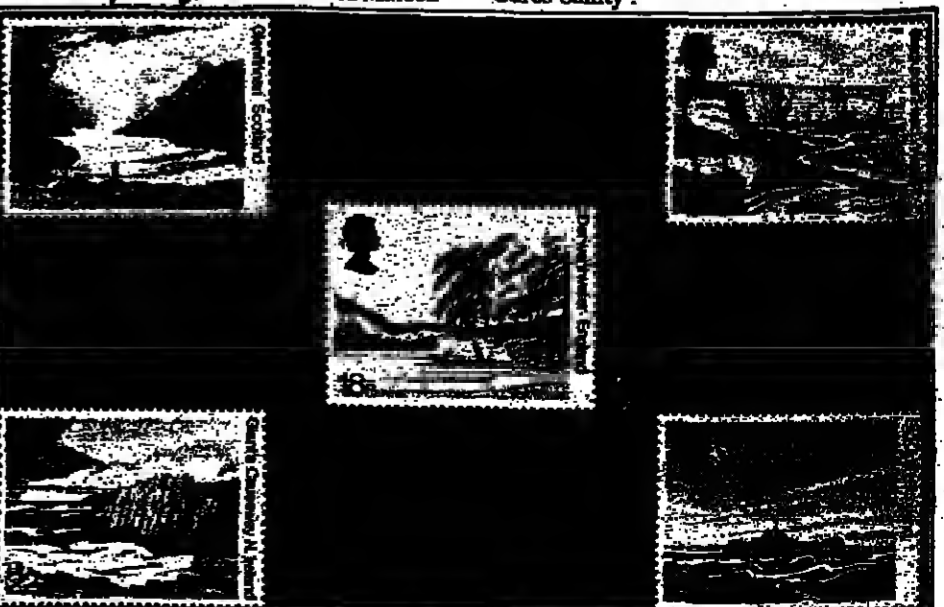
Physicist Solomon W. Golomb's parallel between cube-twists and particle physics, from whose vocabulary the word "quark" has been borrowed to describe a clockwise one-third twist.

Although Rubik is credited with the invention of the Cube which now bears his name, a Japanese engineer by name of Terutoshi Ishige discovered much the same device for which he applied for a patent less than a year after Rubik. There is evidence that cubes of similar design may have been developed as much as 60 years ago in Istanbul and Marseil-

les, but confirmation of such claims is lacking.

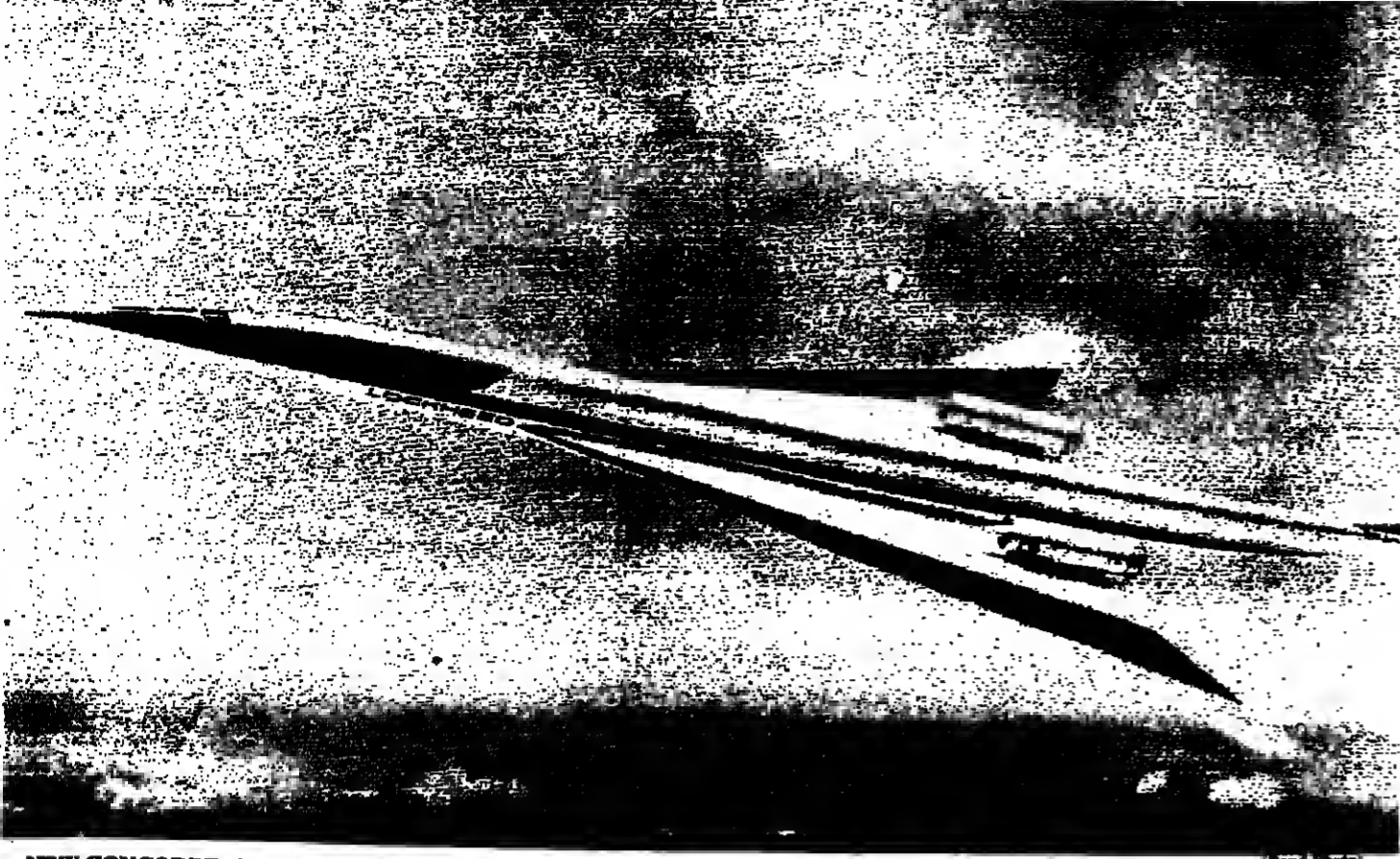
Shortly after Rubik produced his cube, it came to the attention of David Singmaster, an American mathematician resident in England. Fascinated by the gadget, Singmaster worked extensively on its mathematical description and wrote what is widely accepted as the definitive treatise on the subject. In "Notes on Rubik's 'Magic Cube,'" he developed the mathematical notation in terms of which cubology can be discussed.

Addition to cubology is rampant in some intellectual quarters where the "disease" has been pronounced contagious. Like past academic fads, the cube has sown a crop of subsidiary industries which include the manufacture of both T-shirts and badges. "I've got cubic roots" and "Cubism — answer to unemployment" are among the badge designs; T-shirts are emblazoned with a six-color Cube and the motif 'Rubik's Cube Cures Sanity'.



COLLECTOR'S ITEMS: Newly issued coins and stamps. Left, the Isle of Man issued a set of four crown coins to celebrate Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh's 60th birthday and the Silver Jubilee of his award plan. The coins were issued for general circulation in 25p, 50p, 1p and 2p denominations and for collectors in diamond and proof versions with diamond finish, sterling silver, 22 ct. gold and platinum. Center, four of Britain's most colorful butterflies are shown on these stamps promoting their conservation. This set represents an addition to the very popular wildlife series. Right, stamps commemorating the golden jubilee of the National Trust for Scotland show locations of natural beauty in Scotland and Britain. The National Trust is Britain's largest landowner registered in 1895.

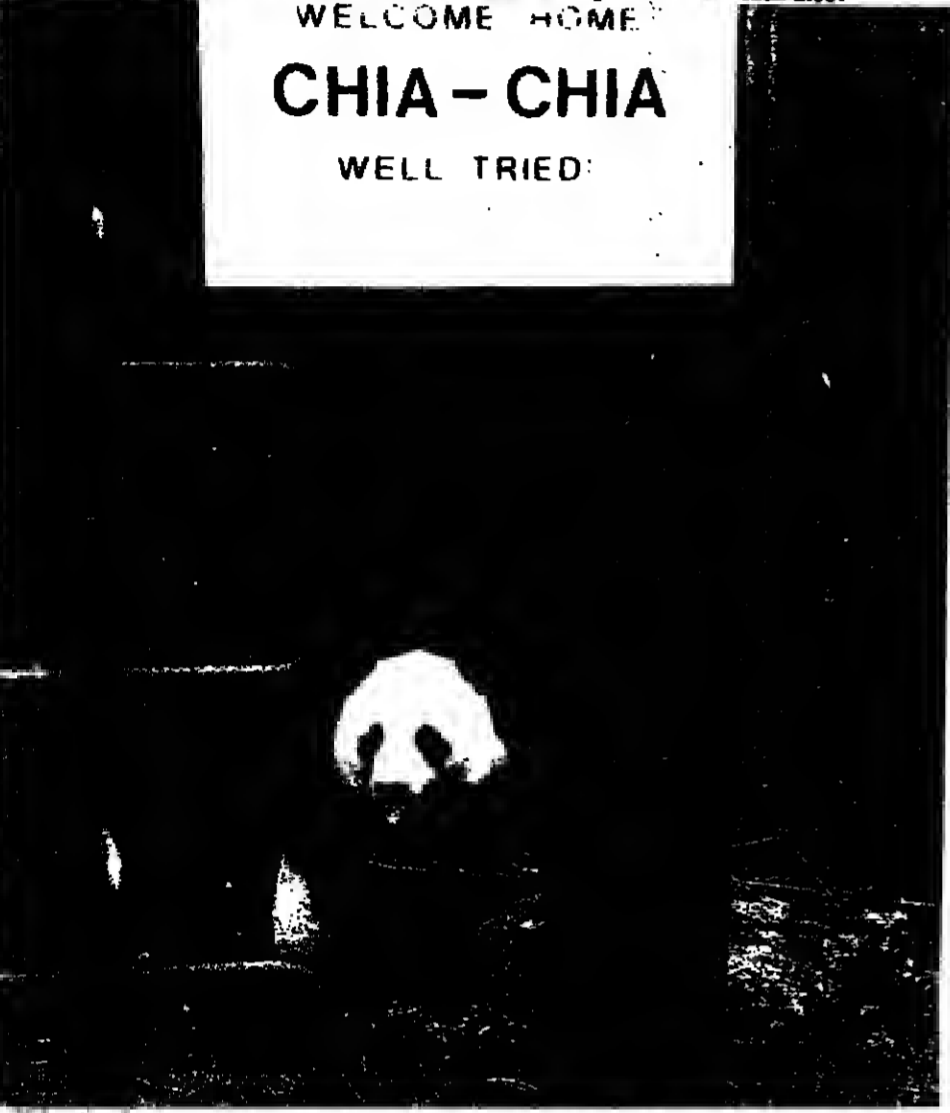
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NEW CONCORDE: Serious consideration is now being given to the construction of an American Concorde-type aircraft which would carry 290 passengers more than 7400 kilometers at a speed of over Mach 2.55.



JUMBO YUN: Elephant stretch is performed by two young children who decided to pull the handles on both ends of this young elephant from India.



HOME AGAIN: Several weeks ago we showed Chia-Chia on his way home from the Washington Zoo. Here sits in the London zoo where he faces six months of solitary confinement in quarantine under provisions of the anti-rabies law.



ALSO RETURNING: These Durer paintings must soon be returned to an East German museum. The paintings were stolen in 1945 and sold in 1946 for \$450, they are no estimated to be worth \$3 million to \$5 million each. A Federal judge in New York ruled they still belong to the museum.



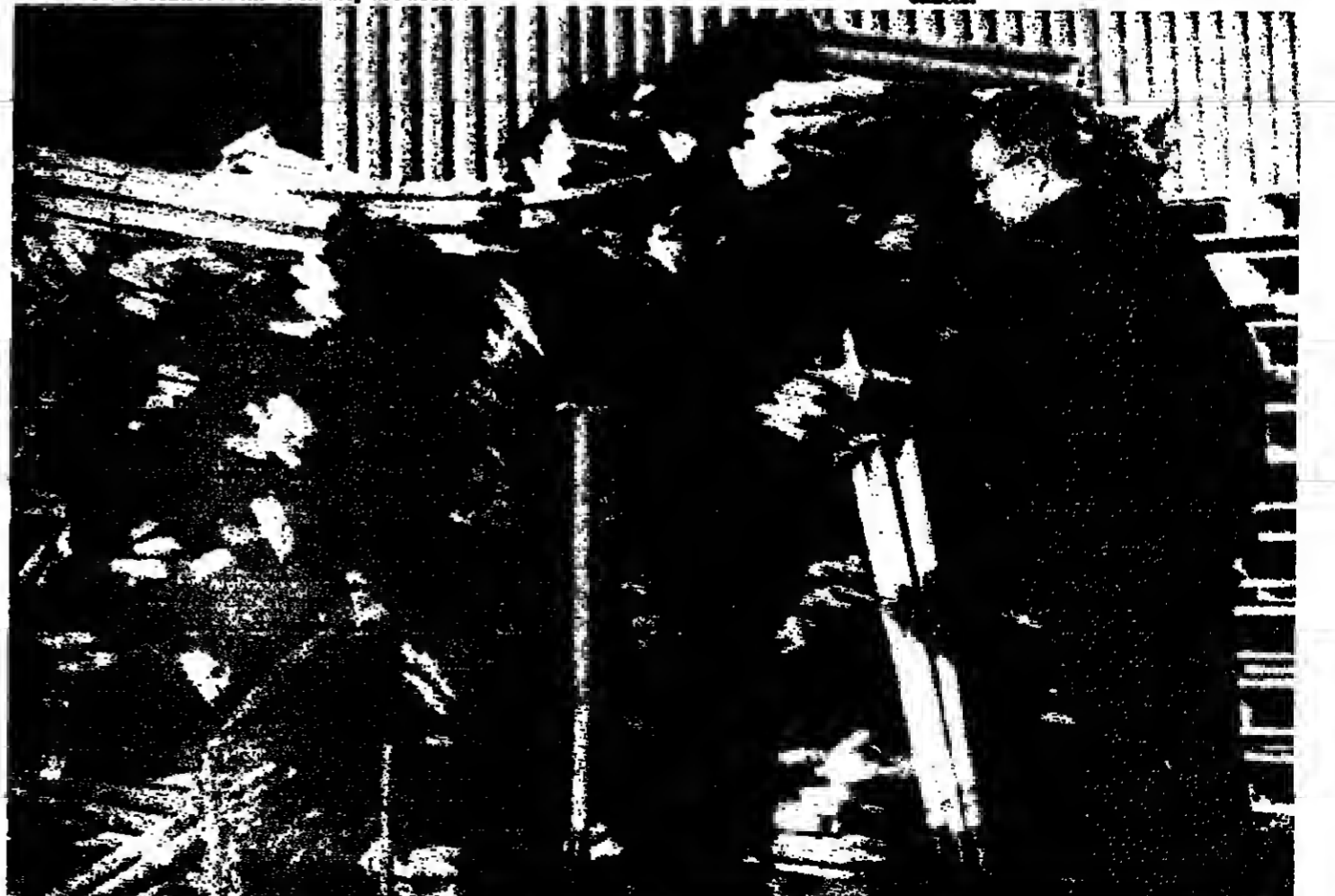
CAN'T RETURN: Elevated section of a Findley, Ohio parkway recently served as a parking lot for residents of the city who were forced out of their homes by a swollen river. The flooding was caused by heavy rain.



AFFECTION TRAINING: These eight-week-old Bengal tiger cubs were born at Marine World in Redwood City, Calif. This method of hand raising by humans will enable trainers to control them when they are adults.



SMALLEST MONKEYS: Minuscule silvery marmoset poses with its mother. The grown monkey is one of the smallest in the world, so that makes the baby a feather-light two ounces.



POLISH SPRING: A brisk business in shovels is taking place in Warsaw where the food shortage is becoming more acute each day and everyone is planting vegetables.

